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Leper asylums in the Presidency.

*1766 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of leper asylums in this province, whether under private management or managed by Government;

(b) by whom they are managed;

(c) where they are situated;

(d) the total accommodation available;

(e) the highest number accommodated on any single day;

(f) the highest number of lepers that sought accommodation; and

(g) the grants made to each by the Government when under private management and the average cost of each when managed by Government?

A.—(a) *to* (d) A statement [a] is laid on the table.

(e) & (f) Government can obtain no information.

(g) The following grants are made to private leper asylums:—

(1) Capitation grants and

(2) building grants.

Capitation grants.—From the current year onwards the Government have agreed to make a grant equal to two-thirds of the actual cost of maintaining a patient subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 a month for each patient. In addition to the above an injection grant of Rs. 900 per annum is made to the leper asylum at Vadatharasalur.

Building grants.—The Government give a grant equal to one-half of the estimated cost of constructing buildings in the leper asylums. In a few cases grants equal to two-thirds of the cost of construction are given.

The Tirumani Leper Settlement is the only institution maintained by the Government. The average cost of maintaining it is Rs. 1,11,826 per annum.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Is it not a fact that those under private management are greater in number than those managed by Government?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"As the appendix shows there are more under Government management."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"What is the number of patients in Tirumani

11-30 a.m. Leper Asylum?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"505, the information is given in page 12."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"The figure given here works to Rs. 22 per head, as allowance for each patient in the Tirumani Leper Asylum. Is that correct?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"Probably the arithmetic may be correct, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. the Minister for Public Health, what arrangements have been made for poor lepers to travel to these asylums, whether the Government have made any arrangements to pay their travelling expenses?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 309 infra.

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The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I think there are some provisions for it, Sir, but I am not sure. I want notice."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :— "May I know if the hon. the Minister is aware that there are a lot of lepers in the city of Madras?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I have seen some, Sir, as the hon. Member probably has seen them himself."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister whether the accounts of these various institutions are audited and whether they are open to inspection by Government as they are making grants for this purpose?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Naturally it ought to be so, Sir."

Mr. S SATYAMURTI :—"Is it so?"

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will examine the question as to whether there are provisions or not, and if there are not whether he will make provision, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Provision for what?

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Provision for the travelling expenses of the poor lepers."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I will consider that matter, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"With reference to the orders of Government about the lepers among Government servants, ordering that they should be kept under observation and treatment, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government at present possesses powers to force the authorities of the leper settlement to take these patients for treatment?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is asking for an opinion."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I want to know whether they possess such powers. There is a difficulty I believe at present in regard to this, because the authorities of the settlements cannot be forced."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"For the purpose of information may I ask the hon. Member under what sub-clause to this printed answer, he is putting his supplementary question?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"That is no answer."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I know why, when the Government spends only Rs. 8 for a patient in a private asylum, they spend Rs. 22 per patient in the Tirumani Leper Settlement per month?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Minister has already given the answer that the arithmetic might be correct."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Why do Government spend Rs. 22 in this settlement while they give only Rs. 8 in the private asylums?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I do not quite understand where the hon. Member gets this Rs. 22 from."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I get it by dividing 1,11,826 by 505, and again by further dividing the quotient by 12."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will have to take another opportunity to explain the mathematical complications of the question."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" The mathematics of it has been admitted to be correct by the hon. Minister, Sir."

Public Works

Use of steel windows and doors for police quarters.

* 1767 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Public Works Department has been asked to use steel windows and doors for the police lines ;

(*b*) what their cost will be as compared with wooden doors and windows of the same size ; and

(*c*) whether they are to be got made in this country or ordered from foreign places, and if so, from which place ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) About Rs. 27 extra per hut where teakwood is used and Rs. 40 to 47 extra per hut when cheaper country wood is used.

(*c*) They are manufactured in England by the Crittal Manufacturing Company, Ltd., but are available with their branch in Bombay and their agents Messrs. William Jackson Company at Calcutta, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister whether it is proposed to use these steel windows and doors for all public buildings hereafter ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know why it has been thought necessary to use steel windows and doors in police lines in preference to wooden windows and doors ? "

The hon. Mr M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The Chief Engineer made a recommendation and the Government approved of it, Sir."

(Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What are you here for, if the Chief Engineer makes the recommendation ? ")

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the use of these steel windows has been decided on as a regular policy, or as an experimental measure ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" It is only an experimental measure."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if the Government or the Law Member was consulted before this order was passed ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The Government was consulted."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" And did the Government approve of it ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" As a temporary measure we approved of it for two years."